



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

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Ref:DO381-10
November 8, 2010

Mike O'Herron
HCP Project Manager
MT DNRC, Forestry Division
2705 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804
406-542-4302

Dear Mr. O'Herron:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer additional input on Department of Natural Resources and Conservation's (DNRC) Forested State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) has reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and DNRC's specific responses to our and others comments. We appreciate that DNRC thoughtfully considered and incorporated many of our suggestions into the Final EIS; we feel the final Plan is much improved. We also recognize the other associated benefits of an approved HCP, including the opportunity for conservation organizations to pursue US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) conservation grant funding.

Although several of our suggestions were ultimately not fully adopted, FWP recognizes the many perspectives DNRC and the USFWS were required to consider when drafting the Plan. We are satisfied that this Plan will achieve improved and predictable fish and wildlife conservation on Montana State Trust Lands. FWP looks forward to continuing to work with DNRC to develop and review future projects on lands subject to the HCP and to helping find ways to include additional conservation measures where they may be necessary.

Again, FWP appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on this important project and DNRC's willingness to seriously consider and incorporate many of our recommendations. And thank you for embarking on a HCP that will result in improved fish and wildlife habitat and populations on State Forested Lands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave Risley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dave" being more prominent than the last name "Risley".

Dave Risley
Fish & Wildlife Administrator